

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /073 W
----- 079097

O 161100 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3606

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 2904

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA, VN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER CONDEMNS NVA ATTACKS ON THAVIANG

1. OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE APRIL 16 CARRIED ARTICLE
EMBODYING REMARKS MADE BY PRIMIN SOUVANNA SAME DATE
TO LAO PRESSE REPORTER ON SUBJECT OF NVA ACTIVITIES
IN THAVIANG SECTOR. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION
OF TEXT OF ARTICLE:

2. BEGIN TEXT: IN A DECLARATION MADE THIS MORNING
TO LAO PRESSE, PRIMIN SOUVANNA PHOUMA ENERGETICALLY
DENOUNCED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE
TROOPS IN BOUAM LONG AND THAVIANG SECTORS. THESE
TWO GOVERNMENT GARRISONS HAVE JUST BEEN ATTACKED BY
THE ENEMY, IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE FEBRUARY 21
CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT.

3. THESE ATTACKS WERE LAUNCHED DESPITE THE WARNING
GIVEN TO PHOUN SIPRASEUTH BY THE PRIMIN DURING THEIR
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MEETING ON MARCH 30. THE PRIMIN SPECIFICALLY WARNED PHOUN THAT IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKED BOUAM LON G, THAVIANG AND SALA PHOUN KHOUN, AS IT WAS INDICATED THEY WOULD DO, HE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO REQUEST INTERVENTION BY THE AMERICAN AIR FORCE.

4. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DID NOT PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THIS WARNING AND ATTACKED THAVIANG AND SEVERAL FORWARD POSTS AT BOUAM LONG IN FORCE, DURING THE PAST WEEK.

5. IT APPEARS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ALSO INTEND TO ATTACK SALA PHOU KHON IN THE NEAR FUTURE. " IF THAT OCCURS, WE WILL HAVE TO REACT VERY ENERGETICALLY," THE PRIMIN ADDED.

6. IN ADDITION, THE PRIMIN DECLARED THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS MONTH, NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS HAVE PUT ON PATHET LAO UNIFORMS IN ORDER TO REMAIN IN LAOS. BUT WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO EXPEL THEM AS SOON AS THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IS FORMED.

7. ON THIS SUBJECT, THE PRIMIN PLACED THE BLAME ON THE PATHET LAO, SAYING THAT " THE DELAY IN FORMING THE GOVERNMENT IS CAUSED BY THE DESIRE OF THE OTHER SIDE

TO CONDUCT AFFAIRS IN LAOS IN TANDEM WITH THOSE IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. DESPITE ALL THIS, WE HOPE THAT THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS NOT COMPLETELY LOST ITS PATRIOTISM AND THAT THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT PRESCRIBED BY THE FEBRUARY 21 AGREEMENT WILL SOON BE FORMED." END TEXT.

GODLEY

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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